

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W
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R 170936Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9027

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12401

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO TRIAL

REF: MANILA 12092

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL, AQUINO TRIAL AUG 16 WAS PRETTY MUCH RERUN OF AUGUST 11 HEARING. AQUINO'S DEFENSE COUNSELS REQUESTED MILITARY TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER EARLIER DEFENSE MOTION TO QUASH SUBVERSION CHARGES SINCE NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AND USSR IMPLIEDLY REPEALED ANTI-SUBVERSION LAW. TRIBUNAL WILL TAKE MOTION UNDER ADVISEMENT. CONSTABULARY ANTI-NARCOTICS UNIT DEPUTY CHIEF (CAMU) LTC DOMINGO TESTIFIED HE LED RAID IN PARANAQUE DURING OCT 1972 WHICH UNCOVERED CACHE OF WEAPONS (15 HIGH POWERED GUNS, 4,500 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES) AQUINO HAD SECRETED AT HOME OF FRIEND. WEAPONS WERE APPROPRIATELY DISPLAYED AND PICTURES FRONT PAGED IN AUG 17 "DAILY EXPRESS" AND "TIMES JOURNAL".

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT SENATOR DIOKNO, LIKE SENATOR SALONGA (SEE REFTEL), IS ALSO PREDICTING AQUINO WILL BE FOUND GUILTY AND GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE THUS ALLOWING MARCOS MAXIMUM ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN HIS POST-TRIAL HANDLING OF FORMER SENATOR.

3. NEXT SESSION OF AQUINO TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR AUG 20

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AT WHICH TIME DEFENSE CROSS EXAMINES GENERAL GATAN AND

LTC DOMINGO.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ANYONE IN MARCOS REGIME SERIOUSLY BELIEVES CHARADE AT FORT BONIFACIO'S HALL OF JUSTICE IS HAVING BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. "EXPRESS" COLUMNIST VALENCIA, WHOSE ENTIRE COLUMN AUG 15 IS DEVOTED TO CONDEMNATION OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY AQUINO TRIAL, PERHAPS REFLECTS REGIME'S FRUSTRATION WHEN HE FALLS BACK ON TRIED AND TRUE CONSPIRACY THEORY, "I HAVE A SUSPICION THAT THE CIA EFFORT IS TO BUILD UP NINYO IN THE EYES OF AMERICANS AND THE OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. WHY?" WHY INDEED? BUT WHEN IN DOUBT, BRING OUT THE OLD RELIABLE WHIPPING BOY.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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